

S.N. 11/125/434

Response to Office Action dated October 6, 2005

REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges receipt of the Office Action dated September 15, 2005, in which the Examiner rejected claims 6-16 as anticipated by Japanese Patent 09-142143 (*Enoki*). Applicant thanks the Examiner for the care with which he has examined the pending claims. Applicant has amended the claims and respectfully traverses each of the rejections for the following reasons.

Correction of Claim Numbering

Applicant has corrected the dependency of the claims and appreciates the Examiner's cooperation in this regard.

Correction of Figure

A replacement Figure 9 is submitted herewith, bearing the legend required by the Examiner.

§ 102 Rejection

In rejecting the pending claims over *Enoki*, the Examiner takes the position that the elastically deformed portion 22c of the sun visor body 22a is an "engaging cavity" within the meaning of the claims. Applicants respectfully disagree for at least two reasons.

First, within the plain meaning of the claim language, the deformed sun visor body is not an "engaging cavity. . . provided with the receiving part." A cavity that is not formed until the "retaining part" (35) is inserted is not "provided" as required by the claim. Likewise, the deformation of the sun visor body in response to insertion of the bearing assembly is not a "cavity." When the bearing assembly is not present, elastically deformed portion 22c does not exist. Thus elastically deformed portion 22c is not a provided cavity as required by the present claims.

Second, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the retaining member is resilient. This recitation, along with the original recitation requiring that "the retaining part resiliently engages with the corresponding engaging cavity," distinguishes the present claims over the teachings of *Enoki*. Specifically, the alleged retaining part of *Enoki*, item 35, is not resilient. Item 35 of *Enoki* cannot be deformed because its shape is supported by spindle 4, which is inserted into it. In addition, because bulging portion 35 must be sufficiently rigid to deform the sun visor 22 in order to be received therein, bulging portion 35 cannot be resilient.

The claimed invention provides several advantages over the visor taught by *Enoki*. One advantage is that by providing an engaging cavity for the retaining member, i.e. one that exists even in the absence of the retaining part and therefore has a fixed location, it is possible for the

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assembler to determine whether the bearing member has been successfully and properly placed in the visor, as the bearing member will "click" into the desired position. (See page 14, last paragraph, of the original specification.) This is in contrast to the *Enoki* device, in which there is no cavity and the visor is equally "retained" (or not retained) no matter where the bearing member is positioned. Also, by providing a cavity that receives the retaining member, the present device allows for a distinct disengagement process, in which the removal force is diminished once the retaining member has been deformed. In contrast, the force required to move the bearing assembly of *Enoki* relative to the visor is essentially constant, as the friction forces applied by the deformed visor will be essentially constant.

To facilitate the Examiner's reading of *Enoki*, Applicant has provided herewith an English translation of paragraph [0043] of *Enoki*. Because Applicant believes that the Examiner has correctly interpreted the teachings of *Enoki*, the translation is provided for informational purposes only. Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are distinguishable over the teachings of *Enoki* for the reasons set out above.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that these amendments place all of the claims in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendments and allowance of the case is therefore respectfully requested. In the event that an extension of time is necessary in order for this submission to be considered timely filed, please consider this a Request for Extension of Time, and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee to Deposit Account 03-2769 of Conley Rose, P.C., Houston, Texas. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview would be beneficial, she is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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[0043]

The sun visor holder 3a according to the embodiment has a longer length than the sun visor holder 3 of the first embodiment by the length of the second bulging part 35. When the visor holder 3a is inserted into the inserting hole 22a formed in the sun visor plate 2, the second bulging part 35 is forcibly inserted into the inserting hole 22a as shown FIG. 5 (□), so that the spindle external attachment part 22 is elastically expanded outwardly to form an bulged/deformed part 22c. The restoring force of the bulged/deformed part 22c tightens the second bulging part 35, so that the sun visor holder 3a is reliably prevented from being removed out of the inserting hole 22a.